

Minnesota Geological Survey

FALL/WINTER 1991

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NEWS

Geological Society of Minnesota



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Geological Survey of Minnesota
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St. Paul, MN

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NEWSLETTER

Geological Society of Minnesota

1711 Marshall Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55104

OFFICERS:

Pres.	Allen Cox
V.Pres.	Dee Schmalz
Sec'y	Jane Mitchell
Treas.	Sylvia Huppier

DIRECTORS:

Walt Blowers
Dorothy Kuether
Bruce Leiding
Tom Lonsky
David Peters

Fall/Winter 1991

GSM Board News

New GSM board members were elected at the Annual Meeting in September. Elected for a first two-year term were Judy Hamilton, Conrad Nelson, Galen O'Connor, and Dwight Robinson. Dee Schmalz was elected for a second two-year term. Terms are effective January 1, 1992.

The board met in October to elect officers for 1992 and to appoint chairpersons for the various GSM committees. Our new officers will be:

President	Dwight Robinson
Vice President	Judy Hamilton
Secretary	Dorothy Kuether
Treasurer	Sylvia Huppier

Chairing the committees will be:

Field Trips	Eva Selander
Programs	Dick Ulhe
Exhibit	Fran Corcoran
Membership	Walt Blowers
Social	Don Swensrud
Public Service	Mary Kimball

Volunteers are needed for several of the committees. If you would like to contribute, please contact the chairperson.

Minn. Geological Survey Support

The Minnesota Geological Survey (MGS) has weathered a rather stormy Fall. On June 4 Governor Arne Carlson vetoed a line-item of the two-year University of Minnesota budget which contained funding for the MGS as a so-called "State Special Project." The veto reduced University funding for the Survey to zero effective July 1, 1992.

An active campaign was initiated within the Geological Society to rally support for the Survey. The plight of the Survey was discussed at several lectures in October and November, and information was made available to members explaining how they might identify and contact their state senators and representatives.

During the week before Christmas, however, the Survey experienced the conversion of Scrooge when Gov. Carlson rescinded his veto. According to David Southwick, MGS Assistant Director, the Governor agreed to sign a resubmitted bill which now requires the University to manage the Special Projects (including the Bell Museum as well as the Survey) as part of its blanket budget. This will probably force the University to implement cost savings in other areas (i.e., cut other programs). Dr. Southwick recommended that GSM members could now help by making their feelings known directly to the President of the University (Nils Hasselmo).

Membership

We are well into the 1991-92 membership year. Current membership is about the same as last year at this time. However, if you have not renewed your membership, please do so soon. It is your dues that makes possible the excellent lecture series we enjoy each year. Membership in the GSM also brings you the newsletter and entitles you to enjoy our field trips.

The membership directory and revised mailing list will be going to press soon. In order to have your name listed in the directory and to continue to receive the newsletter and field trip information, dues must be current.

When you attend the lectures, please feel free to bring a friend. Guests are always welcome. Young people with an interest in geology are especially urged to get involved.

-- Walt Blowers, Membership Chairman

Field Trip Meeting

This is an even-numbered year, so we must be having a two-week field trip this summer, right? You betcha! It's June 15-26 in the Ozarks of Southeast Missouri and led by Dick Uthe and Mary Kimball.

More details will be published in the next newsletter, but for right now mark your calendars for the first of two preparatory meetings. Notice for the first meeting is given below. Dick and Mary will go over the itinerary, distribute a sign-up sheet, and describe the literature to be made available. You should plan to attend even if you haven't definitely decided to go on the field trip.

OZARKS FIELD TRIP MEETING

Saturday, March 21, 1992

7:30 PM

Alex & Marly Lowe's Home
2206 Caroline Lane, South St. Paul
451-6853

A Closing Comment from the Prez

My dictionary defines "swan song" as "the last act or final creative work of a person, as before his death." I therefore prefer to regard this not as my swan song as president, but rather as simply my concluding comments.

1991 was another good year for our Society. We concluded a lecture series on the basics of geology and initiated a series on urban geology. The four field trips were local to Minnesota and Wisconsin this year, and by all accounts were enjoyed by everyone.

Thanks to the special efforts of Mary Kimball, the Public Service committee completed the first of four planned self-guided field trips around the Twin Cities. This first brochure is ready for printing and will be distributed soon. This will be used and enjoyed by members and visitors for many years to come.

The one major new undertaking for the year was our new look at the State Fair booth. Fran Corcoran led this effort with her usual skill, and I want to acknowledge the special efforts contributed by Georgia Cox and SuAnne Hallberg. Our exhibit is now a real eye-catcher.

I think that the high quality of our Society is recognized by not only by our members but also by professional geologists who know us. I am a physicist by training, and I can state from my own experience that GSM is by far the best amateur scientific organization I have ever encountered. My experience this past year dealing with the various committees and volunteers has only strengthened my conviction. This is a active, healthy society because we have active, interested members, and I want to thank you all for making GSM a quality organization.

Probably, the most important function of the president is to find a successor more capable than himself, and in this I believe I have succeeded. Dwight Robinson will take over in 1992; rest assured that we are in better hands.

- Allen Cox, President

"TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

'Twas the night before Christmas when all thru the hills,
Not a rockhound was stirring. The wind was even still.
The stockings were hung round the campsite with care,
In hopes that St. Nicholas would find them out there.
The kids we nestled all snug in their beds
While visions of opals danced in their heads.
I in my longjohns and Ma in her gown,
Had climbed in our bedrolls and were settled all down,
When outside the camper there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter.
Away to the door I flew like a flash,
Tripped on a rock but pushed down the latch.
The moon on the crest of the hillsides around
Gave the luster of midday to the dark desert ground.
And there in the moonlight where the rocks gleamed like
jewels,
Came a tiny ore wagon and twenty small mules.
Bells jingled and jangled from each mule's lame
While red and green ribbons streamed from its mane.
Down the canyon they came with such a clatter and bang
I was certain they'd awaken the whole ROCK CLUB
GANG.
Canteens and buckets and shovels and hammers
Tied to the wagon caused all the clammer.
Then I saw the old driver so lively and quick,
I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.
More rapid than eagles his mule train came
While he whistled and shouted and called them by name.
"Whoa, Nellie! Whoa, Pete! Ho, Prince and Beauty.
Easy there, Bell, you long eared cutie!"
And around the campsite those tiny hooves thundered
While I gasped and stared and truly wondered.
"Till they came to a halt not a stone's throw away,
Snorting and stomping, reluctant to stay.
Down from the wagon jumped the old mule skinner.
I was St. Nick, though he looked a lot thinner.
He was short and wiry, and gone was the belly
That was said to have shaken like a bowl full of jelly.
He was wearing a Sietson and scuffed cowboy boots,
Along with his fur-trimmed, baggy red suit.
His cheeks were like roses, the chalcedony kind,
Wrinkled and hard, with a pink luster shine.
In his eyes was a gleam that you will only see
When a rockhound's found gold where none ought to be.
So he wasn't the round jolly elf that's usually described.
But an old desert rat as tough as mule hide.
With a nod of his head and a wink of his eye,

He turned to the wagon that was loaded shy high.
Sack after sack he threw to the ground.
While whistling and chuckling, a right merry sound,
I stood there in wonder at all the noise that he made,
Yet no one awakened or raised up a shade.
Soon the wagon was empty, the load on the ground,
And he started his stuffing of the stockings around.
From greasewood and Joshuas and sagebrush they hung,
Long socks and short socks, we'd all put out one.
'Twas then that I saw what his gifts were to be --
Rubies an opals, a jade ming tree,
Some turquoise and topaz, a blue game sphere,
Handfulls of emeralds, and all crystal clear.
My eyes were bedazzled. My heart beat wild.
Was I only dreaming like some sleeping child?
He turned to me then, his work done at last,
And answered the question I'd silently asked.
"All rockhounds are dreamers, they gotta be,
Or they wouldn't call diggin' rock no bloomin' hobby!"
Then with a grin and a leap he was up on the seat,
Picked up the reins and braced both his feet.
The mule gave a snort and with a bound took off right,
Straight through the air like a whirlwind aloft.
But I heard Old Nick call ere he drove out of sight,
"MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL AND TO ALL A
GOODNIGHT."

B. Firell
Conveyed by Jan Mitchell.

Texas Sheet Cake

Several people asked for the recipe of the dessert bars served at the last lecture in April. Gwen Lang kindly provided the following recipe for her Texas sheet cake.

CAKE:

Mix together 2 cups of sugar and 2 eggs;
Add 1/2 cup of sour cream;
Add 2 cups flour, 1/2 tsp salt, 1 tsp baking soda.
Bring to a boil 2 sticks margarine, 4 tbsps cocoa, and 1 cup of water.
Pour boiled mixture into creamed mixture. Beat well (it will be runny.) Pour into greased jelly roll pan (11 x 14).
Bake at 350 degrees F for 20 minutes. Do NOT cool before adding icing.

ICING:

Boil together 1 stick margarine, 1/3 cup milk, and 4 tbsps cocoa. Slowly add 1 pound box powdered sugar and beat well. Add 1 tsp vanilla and 1 cup finely chopped nuts. Put WARM frosting over WARM cake. Thanks, Gwyn!